CLAIMS

1. A filter for a cigarette, comprising an assembly of:

a cylindrical filtering core;

a tubular filtering sheath surrounding said core; and,

between said core and said sheath,

passages spaced circumferentially around said core and extending continuously between open ends at the two ends of the assembly.

2. A filter according to claim 1 wherein said sheath has a thickness of 1 to 3 mm, the ratio of the diameter of said core to the thickness of said sheath is from 0.7 to 6, and there are 3 to 25 of said passages.

3. A filter according to ~~claim 1 or 2~~ claim 1 wherein said sheath has an axial air-flow resistance higher than that of said core.

4. A filter according to ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1 having means for introducing air into said passages through said sheath.

5. A filter according to ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1 wherein said core has a plurality of longitudinal grooves at the outer peripheral surface thereof, and said passages are defined between the longitudinal grooves and the inner peripheral surface of said sheath.

6. A filter according to claim 5 wherein the longitudinal grooves are provided by a thermoformed outer peripheral surface of said core or by a corrugated wrapper or a grooved tubular element at the outer peripheral surface of said core.

7. A filter according to claim 6 wherein both the inner and outer peripheral surfaces of said sheath have air permeability.

8. A filter according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1 wherein said sheath has a plurality of longitudinal grooves at the inner peripheral surface thereof, and said passages are defined between the longitudinal grooves and the outer peripheral surface of said core.

9. A filter according to claim 8 wherein the longitudinal grooves are provided by a thermoformed inner peripheral surface of said sheath or by a corrugated wrapper or a grooved tubular element at the inner peripheral surface of said sheath.

10. A filter according to claim 9 wherein both the inner and outer peripheral surfaces of said sheath have air permeability or the outer peripheral surface of said sheath has air permeability and openings are formed in said tubular element in communication with the longitudinal grooves.

11. A filter according to ~~any one of claim 1 to 4~~ claim 1 having a cylindrical corrugated wrapper arranged between said core and said sheath, said passages being defined between said corrugated wrapper and said core and between said corrugated wrapper and said sheath.

12. A filter according to ~~any of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1 having a tubular element arranged between said core and said sheath and having said passages therein.

13. A filter according to claim 12 wherein both the inner and outer peripheral surfaces of said sheath have air permeability, and openings are formed in said tubular element in communication with said passages.

14. A filter according to ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1 wherein the passages have a total cross-sectional area of 1 to 3 mm^2.

15. A filter according to ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1 wherein the assembly is in longitudinal alignment with a cylindrical tip element, said tip element having [a] a length from 2 to 20 mm which is correspondingly from 8 to 60% of the overall length of said filter, and [b] an axial air-flow resistance of 80 or less mmH_2O/25 mm.

16. A filter-tipped cigarette having a filter as claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1 connected to a cigarette by tipping paper having air permeability.

~~17.~~ A filter for a cigarette, substantially as herein described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

~~18.~~ A filter-tipped cigarette, substantially as herein described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

~~19.~~ A filter for a cigarette, substantially as herein described with reference to the preceding embodiments.

~~20.~~ A filter-tipped cigarette, substantially as herein described with reference to the preceding embodiments.

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